change in the election code of conduct to prevent criminalisation of politics;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to prevent criminalisation of politics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). The Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates was formulated by the Election Commission of India in consultation with political parties. Government, not being a party to its formulation, is not required to amend it.

(c) Section 8(a) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 disqualifies a person on conviction for certain offences mentioned in the section. This section also provides that any person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a period of six years since his release.

Disinvestment

1173. DR. M. JAGANNATH :
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revised stand on Disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present stand of the Government in regard to the role of the public sector in the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The stand of the Government with regard to disinvestment and the role of Public Sector in the economy of the country is spelt out in the Common Minimum Programme. The Public Sector would continue to be an important component of the economy of the country.

Supply of Washed Coal to Power Plants

1174. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has expressed its inability to supply washed coal with low ash contents to thermal power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to assess the techno-economic feasibilities of washed coal for power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the growing need of coal of power plants in eco-friendly manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (e) Coal India Ltd. are setting up two washeries at Bina (NCL) and Piparwar (CCL) for beneficiating non-coking coal. CIL have also initiated action to set up washeries under "Build-Own-Operate" scheme for supply of washed coal to power plants.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests have constituted an Expert Committee to examine the techno-economic issues of coal beneficiation for use by thermal power plants under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi. Representative of Ministry of Coal is also a member of the Committee. One of the terms of reference of the committee is to examine the techno-economic aspects of coal beneficiation and optimum ash reduction with particular reference to Indian Coals.

Review of Performance of Co-operative Banks

1175. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government review the performance of Co-operative Banks operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details of their performance and achievements vis-a-vis the targets fixed therefor during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have formulated a plan of action to revitalise co-operative banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated therefor with special reference to such banks in Maharashtra;

(e) the quantum of loans provided by the Co-operative Banks and number of farmers benefited therefrom during each of the last three years, State-wise, with position of loans outstanding and the percentage of defaulting small and marginal farmers; and

(f) the steps taken to deal with the problem of bad debt and standing overdues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The achievement with regard to Priority Sector Lending of all banks including cooperative banks is reviewed in the Block Level Bankers' Committee (BLBC), District Consultative Committee (DCC) and the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC). Further, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) also periodically review the performance of the cooperative banks. NABARD also conducts statutory inspections of cooperative banks at periodic intervals.

(b) to (e). The cooperative banks and the concerned State Governments have entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with NABARD. As a part of the MOU, the cooperative banks are required to prepare Development Action Plans (DAPs) so as to provide a focussed approach to their operations. The MOU also, inter-alia, seek a ban on announcements of generalised loan/interest waivers of interest subsidies, lifting of ban by State Governments on coercive recovery processes and support from State Governments in the recovery efforts. No funds have been specifically earmarked by NABARD to any cooperative bank under these MOU or as a part of these DAPs.

The details of performance of State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) as prepared by NABARD in regard to deposits and loans outstanding is given in the statement enclosed.

NABARD has further reported that the number of farmers benefited therefrom and the percentage of defaulting small and marginal farmers is not available with them.

(f) In order to improve recovery of agricultural advances, some States have enacted legislations on the basis of the model evolved by the Talwar Committee for recovering agricultural dues. As a part of the MOUs, the State Governments are required to refrain from announcing generalised loan/interest waivers. This is expected to improve the recovery climate further, in order to provide a greater transparency to the accounts of the cooperative banks. RBI has introduced prudential accounting norms for income recognition, asset classification and provisioning in SCBs and DCCBs from the year 1996-97.

STATEMENT

(Rs. in lakhs)

States/Union Territories	Loans Outstanding			Deposits		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2113	2207	2500	2318	2746	3354
Andhra Pradesh	93838	95685	113521	42250	45505	39363
Arunachal Pradesh	923	1134	1433	3054	5098	5832
Assam	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	15478	18024	19365
Bihar	43133	46823	36374	28450	23838	28392
Chandigarh	112	1806	2219	2156	0232	11849
National Capital Territory of Delhi	2414	1407	2219	7843	10118	11454
Goa	7084	9836	11697	9842	13786	16505
Gujarat	64219	4806	58506	70478	113115	15532
Haryana	56521	65351	76209	26271	29598	33853
Himachal Pradesh	11130	12832	12638	25800	31133	38633
Jammu & Kashmir	1706	1656	1724	2627	2691	3184
Karnataka	43744	38094	45201	41924	42868	44862
Kerala	34328	41133	49661	35668	50252	50159
Madhya Pradesh	80864	86943	89826	50758	56119	62356
Maharashtra	283873	226807	311894	277290	378439	360852
Manipur	2090	2063	2007	936	678	787
Meghalaya	2303	3058	3026	7163	8222	10168
Mizoram	1797	1844	2038	2383	2836	3249
Nagaland	1488	1644	1685	3401	3370	3729
Orissa	16544	19990	26243	8310	9950	12315
Pondichery	2952	3503	4628	3011	4602	4935
Punjab	47723	57363	81156	40267	59193	51401
Rajasthan	39159	42536	43597	18548	20975	23740
Tamil Nadu	84887	91453	137113	55050	66121	76409

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	2852	2989	3290	2505	3001	3633
Uttar Pradesh	144295	135033	145861	94930	120863	127779
West Bengal	30485	31505	35629	28133	44361	48196
All India	1102677	1077911	1308967	906846	1169734	1181526

[Translation]

Setting up of Paper Mills

1176. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a paper mill in public sector in Barauni;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its production capacity, estimated cost and employment opportunities to be generated therefrom;

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed for the setting up of the paper mill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the selection of this site for setting up of mill?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Degradation of Coal

1177. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints regarding supply of low grade coal by Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any responsibility in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). As per information received from Coal India Limited (CIL), during the period April 1996 to October 1996, 46 complaints on quality of coal representing around 0.34 number of complaint per million tonnes of coal supplied during the period were received by them.

(c) and (d). Depending on the type and nature of requirement of coal by the industries, linkage is established with due consideration of quality parameters of coal. Coal being hetrogenous commodity and extracted from the earth's crust the possibility of slippage in quality cannot be ruled out. However, the complaints are examined on the merits of each case and corrective action is taken to redress the grievances of the consumers.

[English]

Poverty Alleviation and Self Employment Scheme

1178. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India propose to set up a study group on integration and rationalisation of all credit linked poverty alleviation and self-employment schemes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition and terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). In a meeting with the representatives of some Ministries/Departments of Central Government, State Governments, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and banks held in August, 1996 to review credit linked programmes, it was recognised that considering the large number of credit linked poverty alleviation and self-employment schemes sponsored by various Ministries of Government of India as also State Governments, there was a need for rationalisation of these schemes into simple categories with well understood procedures. The meeting also took into account the fact that these schemes were targeted towards different sections of society with their own characteristics. It was, therefore, recommended that RBI will constitute a Group to study and make detailed recommendations on the integration and rationalisation of schemes. Accordingly, a Group was formed with representatives of some State Governments, some public sector banks and a few Ministries of Central Government. The Group has since submitted its report.

More Power to SEBI

1179. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give more